support is an essential prerequisite to land reform in a democratic state, and many examples exist in the colonial world wherein provisions for reform have been resisted or boycotted because of opposition to the institution prosecuting the reform rather than to the reform itself.(1)

Coffee processing and marketing

From its inception the council expressed the view that processing and marketing should be handled by the Orokaiva themselves (either through the council or some other authority set up for the purpose). Administration officers were generally sympathetic to this view though some doubted the capacity of the council to operate such an enterprise efficiently. It was agreed that the factory and equipment should be owned by the Orokaiva, but the question of management was left in abeyance.

During the 1920's "communal" village plantations were established throughout the Orokaiva area under the Native Plantations Ordinance 1918.(2) Part of the proceeds of produce sales was distributed to villagers and part was deposited in a fund to be used for specific purposes including education. The project was resumed for a short time after the war and a credit balance remained in the Sangara Native Coffee Trust Fund. This money was used as part payment for the purchase of hulling, winnowing and polishing machines for the factory. The balance was met by a loan from the Native Loans Board (which is an agency of the central government). A factory building was erected for the council by an indigenous contractor at a cost of £500. The building was completed and the machinery installed by January 1959. Until this time the processing and marketing of coffee had been undertaken by a private firm.

(1) Local reaction will be determined largely by the relations between the people and the authority implementing the reform. Owing to the precarious nature of relations between people and government in this Territory considerable emphasis will need to be given to public participation if the reforms proposed in the Lands Commission Bill 1962 and the Land (Tenure Conversion) Bill 1963 are to be successfully implemented.

(2) This project will be described in detail in a forthcoming issue of this Bulletin.

The Department of Agriculture thereupon took over the factory and began operations. The Orokaiva raised strong objections,(1) and a public meeting of about 1,200 people was held on 6th October 1959. Government officers are said to have informed the meeting that the factory was being run at a loss which was being borne by the government. Nevertheless, negotiations were then held with the council and it was agreed that in future the processing and marketing would be run by a committee to be known as the Higaturu Council Coffee Factory Committee which was to consist of the District Agricultural Officer, the Assistant District Officer (Local Government), a representative of the Higaturu council and a representative of the growers (who was not necessarily a member of the council). The committee held its first meeting on 25th February 1960 and met at monthly intervals thereafter. The day to day operation of the factory was controlled by the Department of Agriculture.

Early in 1962 it was decided that a new body to be known as the Orokaiva Coffee Growers Society would be set up to handle the processing and marketing of coffee. The society serves a wider area than the council and is independent of the council. It is run by a board of directors with an officer of the Department of Agriculture as adviser, and replaces the former Higaturu Council Coffee Factory Committee. The society is raising capital by selling shares at £5 each to indigenous coffee growers and by the end of 1962 it had a membership of 470 and a share capital of £2,350.(2) It is intended that the society should buy out the council's investment in the coffee factory. Six coffee buying centres have been set up by the society, and all coffee in the area (35 to 40 tons in parchment per year) is now bought through them and processed at the factory. The processed coffee is marketed in Australia through the Territory Department

(1) These were undoubtedly aggravated by a drop in overseas prices soon after the Department took over, and by the fact that the Department several times ran out of funds for buying the coffee and had to send growers home without payment.

(2) Late in 1962 a European planter applied to join the society but his application was disallowed on the ground that the legislation under which the society operates (the Native Economic Development Ordinance 1951-2) does not permit of non-indigenous participation.

of Agriculture. Those Orokaiva people with whom we have discussed the matter appear to be satisfied by the present arrangement and to appreciate the experience they are thus gaining in running a commercial enterprise.